

# EDMONTON BULLETIN.

VOL. I.

EDMONTON, N. W. T., MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1881.

No. 18.

## TELEGRAPHIC.

WINNIPEG, March 30, 1881.

The Blake banquet at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, last night was a grand success.

The Liberal convention met yesterday in Montreal. The organization was perfected, and appropriate resolutions were passed. One welcomed Blake as leader of the party, while another set forth that Liberalism was purely a political organization, the chief object of which was the defence and preservation of constitutional liberties, and that the party not only respects religious and civil institutions, and protects their interests or acquired rights, but is prepared to defend them.

It appears that there is something crooked about the recent award of contract for supplies for the Mounted Police and Indians in the North West. Said award was made to prominent supply contractors after several lower tenderers had dropped out. The award has been cancelled, and an advertisement published calling for new tenders in both cases.

It is rumored that a letter has been received by the parents of late constable Grayburn, of the Mounted Police, stating that he was not murdered by Indians, but by a white man holding a lucrative position.

Mr. E. Dewdney has left Ottawa for the North West.

Mr. Croute, liberal, has been elected for East Northumberland.

J. P. Wiser, M.P., has gone to Texas to purchase 5,000 head of cattle for his grazing ranch in the North West.

A gas explosion in a theatre at Nice, France, killed over one hundred persons.

Russia is preparing for war with Germany.

BATTLEFORD, April 2, 1881.

Mr. L. Clarke, chief factor of Saskatchewan H.B.C. district, was elected to the North West Council for the electoral division of Lorne, which includes Prince Albert, St. Laurent, Duck Lake, and Carlton, on the 20th of March, by a majority of 117 over Mr. C. Mair, merchant, of Prince Albert.

Mail for the west left yesterday afternoon.

THE METHODIST MISSION SCHOOL was opened in the church at this place on the 11th of last October, and was continued five days a week until the 3rd of December, when, on account of a prevailing sickness, it was suspended until the 3rd of January. From that date it was held regularly up to the present time, and will be continued at least until the 1st of June. The total number of boys attending was 22, and of girls 7. In October the attendance ranged

from 10 to 17, in November from 12 to 17, in January from 15 to 23, in February from 12 to 23, and in March from 17 to 20. The ages of the children ranged from five to sixteen. The four furthest advanced were in the third book, and they, with one in the second, studied grammar, geography, arithmetic, and composition. There were nine in the second part of the first book, who also studied writing and arithmetic, and fifteen in the first part of the first book.

## LOCAL.

SUB-CONSTABLES VanCortlandt, Smith, Fletcher, and Gilmour got their discharges from the Police in June, and will leave for the south to enter the cattle business.

NORRIS & Co's mill ground 5,538 bushels of wheat and 2,339 bushels of barley, a total of 7,877 bushels, from the 10th of January, when the mill started, until the 2nd of April.

REV. JOHN McDONGALL arrived from Morleyville, Bow River, on Saturday evening, and leaves for home again on Friday, via Pigeon Lake. The Red Deer River was partly open when he crossed it, last Wednesday.

THE PAST WINTER.—Ice took in the Saskatchewan on the 19th of November, and the first fall of snow was two inches on the 26th of that month. The total snow fall was thirty eight and a half inches. The heaviest fall was eight inches on the 25th of February, when the snow was nineteen inches deep, the greatest depth during the winter. The highest wind was 24 miles an hour on the 4th of November, which was a very windy month all through. The calmest weather was from the 17th to the 25th of December, of which time from the 21st to the 24th there was absolutely no wind, the anemometer cups at the Government observatory not making a single revolution during that time. The highest wind in December was 21, in January 13, in February 13, and in March, on the 3rd, 26 miles an hour. In November the thermometer ranged from 18 degrees below zero on the 23rd to 58 above on the 14th, in December from 46 below on the 4th to 50 above on the 12th, in January from 42 below on the 8th to 40 above on the 22nd, in February from 29 below on the 16th to 36 above on the 23rd, and in March from 1 above on the 1st to 55 above on the 28th with an average maximum of 44 above. The first rain fell on the 20th of March. Ducks and plover were seen on the 20th of March, and geese on the 23rd. Ice in the river raised on the 30th of March, and began to break in places on the 2nd of April. Snow all gone except in spots on the 31st of March.

#### LOCAL.

JOHN PAUL, while carrying stones in a hand barrow at the H.B.C. mill on Thursday last, slipped and fell, the handle of the barrow coming on his leg, injuring it severely, but breaking no bones.

The steamer Norwicote will be supplied with new cylinders, and undergo a general renovation. Rumor has it that owing to the death of Capt. Griggs last New Years, Capt. Smith, of the Lily will take her in charge.

The Indians in the vicinity of Saddle Lake are in a very destitute condition, and were it not for the soup kitchen established by the Indian Department many of them would have gone to the happy hunting grounds this winter.

A NEW boat is building at Grand Forks, to be placed on the Saskatchewan between Grand Rapids and Prince Albert. She will be much larger than the Northcote, and more powerful, and will be warped up Grand Rapids towards the end of the season.

CURT has delivered 1,000 sacks of flour, the amount of his contract, to the Indian Department, but he is obliged to furnish as much more as may be required at contract prices. A most advantageous bargain for the Government, and as disadvantageous to the contractor.

JOHN MACDONALD and R. Yates left on Thursday last to explore the mountains around the head waters of this river, hoping to find coarse gold or gold bearing quartz. They took five pack horses, and supplies enough to last them until next winter. They intend to make a thorough search.

HIGHEST thermometer during the past week was 52 degrees above zero on Tuesday, and the lowest 29 degrees above on Saturday. The average velocity of the wind was six and five sevenths miles per hour. The snow fall amounted to five inches, and thawed away as fast as it came.

NORRIS & CAREY, who have the Indian beef contract for this agency, are obliged to furnish as much or as little as may be required at eight cents a pound. In the fall they killed as many animals as they supposed would be required. That supply is now exhausted, and they are obliged to kill cattle that they were wintering over, which have failed in condition to the extent of two to three hundred pounds to each animal.

The Kamloops murderers, three McLean brothers and three, were hanged at Victoria on the 30th of January.

Ninety-six miles of the railroad west of Winnipeg were finished before work stopped.

The first five miles of the C.P.R. in British Columbia is ready for the rails.

NOTICE—All parties indebted to the undersigned are requested to settle up by the 30th of March, at furthest.  
FRANK OLIVER.

JAMES McDONALD, Carpenter and Joiner, Edmonton Milling Co's Mills. Wood Turning done to order.

NOTICE—The partnership known as McLeod, Norris & Belcher has been dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be carried on by Norris & Co., who will settle all accounts against the firm, and to whom all debts must be paid.

J. KNOWLES, Manager.

C. W. SUTTER—Gentlemen's Outfitter and Clothier—A Large Assortment of Ready Made Clothing, Boots, Shoes and Fancy Goods. Ready Made Clothing fitted without extra charge. Market House, first door East of Mission.

J. KNOWLES, Practical Miller and Millwright Plans and Specifications for any kind of machinery made on application. Orders solicited. Address, Edmonton Mills.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS & MACHINERY.

Farmers of Edmonton remember we have the largest and best assortment of agricultural implements and machinery, our own manufacture, ever offered for sale in Manitoba or the North West. Self Binding Harvesters for both cord and wire, can use either on same machine. New Brantford Reaper, weighs only 750 lbs., the simplest and strongest ever offered for sale. The new Brantford Mower weighs only 550 lbs. A perfect little beauty. Seeders, Rakes, all kinds Plows, Iron and Wood Harrows, Little Champion Thresher, light and easily transported, Minnesota Chief Thresher, etc., etc. Send for illustrated catalogue. Orders by mail promptly attended to. Correspondence solicited.

A. HARRIS, SON & CO, Winnipeg.  
Factory at Brantford, Ontario.

#### BEEF & FLOUR

In unlimited quantities, and at lowest prices at the MARKET HOUSE, formerly known as the School House, second door north of the Methodist Church.

D. M. McDUGALL.

#### NORRIS & LOGAN, DEER LODGE, BIG LAKE ROAD,

Wholesale and retail dealers in Dry Goods, Ready Made Clothing, Hardware, Groceries, Provisions, Feed &c.

The highest price paid for Fur.

All persons indebted to the above Firm are requested to call and settle their accounts without any further delay.

#### CARLIN & LAKE, BIG LAKE ROAD.

Dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Ready Made Clothing, &c. A large and varied Stock at bottom prices. Call before purchasing elsewhere.

Ten Iron Bound Carts for Sale.

thicker seams and of better quality. It is also probable that if shafts were sunk to a considerable depth better coal would be found even here.

These coal fields lie on the head waters of the rivers which flow from west to east across the Territory, thereby putting the settlers in the central prairies almost on the same footing as regards fuel as those who live right over them, while their immense extent, and the fact that they underlie the finest agricultural country in the Dominion makes their value utterly incalculable.

REV. A. SUTHERLAND, D.D., general secretary of the Canada Methodist Missionary Society, who passed through this place on a tour of inspection last summer, says in his report:—"I am convinced that it is unwise to establish mission headquarters at any of these police stations. The officers, with rare exceptions are opposed to our work, and the men are hindered from attending the services, while not unfrequently the missionary is treated with marked disrespect, which seriously impairs his influence and retards his work. Besides this, the evangelization of the Indians in the vicinity of these posts is attempted at an immense disadvantage, from causes which I need not specify here." Very few of the officers belong to the Methodist Church, and doubtless those who belong to antagonistic denominations are opposed, or at least indifferent, to the work alluded to, but that the men are hindered from attending church services, at least at Fort Saskatchewan, is a falsehood, nor do we believe that such is the case at any fort in the country. If a man can not command respect as a man he need not expect it as a missionary. The missionary spirit that quails before disrespect or disadvantages, that calculates on the allowance of loaves and fishes or on a certain position in society, is not worthy of the name, or of support. It was not such a spirit that organized the first Methodist missions in the Saskatchewan, when a man's life, as well as his self importance, was in danger, that in almost the darkest times built a church and parsonage at Edmonton worth \$3,000 at a cost to the Society of four hundred and made the mission nearly self supporting, and that established a mission on the Bow River when the Indians of that district were at war with each other and with the whites. Dr. Sutherland apparently wishes to advertise to the people of Canada that parts of the population of the North West are sunk so low as to be beyond the reach of religious effort. And they certainly are—such effort as he appears to think would be proper to put forth.

Mr. J. W. FISHER left for Battleford and Winnipeg last Thursday. While here he remarked that he had visited a large portion of the North West, and had not seen any that could compare with the part between Edmonton and Big Lake for a farming country. At no time before had he seen a climate where there had been twenty six consecutive days of bright sunny weather in the month of March.

#### LOCAL.

Ducks are plentiful, and the Indians are happy.

The racehorse Blackbird has again come under the control of Messrs Norris & Carey.

LECTAB BELLEROS and J. Larondelle, freighters, expect to leave for Winnipeg this week.

GEORGE GULMON is building a large York boat for the H. B. C. It is to be used on the river in this vicinity in cases of emergency.

Mr. J. J. McHUGH, who has been appointed to the charge of the large Government farm at Fort Calgary, left for that place on Friday.

THE race between McPherson's Brown Horse and McBougall's Captain will come off some time this week. The track is drying up rapidly.

NORRIS & CAREY leave shortly for Sun River Crossing, Montana, to purchase a band of beef cattle for this market. They expect to return about the middle of June.

MR. CHISHOLM has turned out some very fair leather at his tannery, and in a few weeks expects to be able to meet the demand. The article already manufactured is intended for moccasins alone.

J. WALTER has in preparation the wood for a large scow for the ferry here. He is going to run it with a wire cable, and is also making arrangements to fix the road on the south side of the river, for the convenience of the Barracks people.

ALL the necessary stock having been subscribed, the promoters of the new dredging institution for mining gold on this river, have purchased the machinery, and we may expect to hear soon of its being shipped from Winnipeg. Opinions are divided as to its practicability, but we will welcome it as another addition to our increasing industries.

THE annual report of the Canada Methodist Missionary Society, extending from June '79 to June '80, gives the expenditure on missions in the Saskatchewan District for that time as \$6,600 and the receipts as \$18,95, which was contributed by the mission at Edmonton, a balance on the wrong side which proves, better than words could, the interest which the people of the Society feel in this country. The mission stations are:—Moreleyville, Bow River, at which there is an ordained minister and a school teacher; Woodville, Pigeon Lake, a school teacher; Edmonton a school teacher; Victoria, an ordained minister; White Fish Lake, an ordained minister, and a school teacher; and Prince Albert, an ordained minister. Rev. Mr. Manning, who was stationed at Fort McLeod, has been removed to Toronto, and in his report of the mission says:—"Considering the class of people among whom our lot has been cast, the general prevalence of vice, and the lack of the restraining influences of civilization, not to say of Christian mothers and sisters and wives, I am constrained to believe that nothing less than a gracious Divine influence could have brought so many to hear the Word of God preached during the last winter." Ft. McLeod seems to be a very wicked place, and we are not surprised to see elsewhere in the report that the police authorities are going to remove from it to some place in the mountains.



## THE BULLETIN

Will be discontinued from this date, as the presence of spring obliges the proprietors to turn their attention to other matters. We regret our inability to publish until the 1st of May, and to those of our subscribers who think they have not had the worth of their money we can only say that they have at least had the best end of the bargain. However, next fall we propose to issue the BULLETIN in an enlarged form, when we will make up to both subscribers and advertisers the number of issues still due.

TAYLOR & OLIVER.

EDMONTON BULLETIN, APRIL 4, 1881.

### COAL.

The Saskatchewan coal fields underlie an immense district of country, extending from the Rocky Mountains eastward 250 miles, and from the Boundary Line far northward beyond the Peace River. The seams are noticed in the banks of the rivers and creeks, and are of all thicknesses from a few inches to eighteen feet, and of many different qualities. Up to the beginning of the present year the only place where any quantity was taken out for use was at or near old Fort Whoop-Up, at the junction of the St. Mary's and Belly Rivers. It has been the principal fuel used at Fort McLeod ever since that place became the headquarters of the police force. It is used for blacksmithing as well as for heating purposes, and answers admirably. It costs \$20 a ton at Fort McLeod as it has to be hauled from the mine, 16 miles distant, by ox teams. Long ago, coal was used for blacksmithing at the Mountain Fort, 150 miles up the river from Edmonton, which was taken out of the bed of the river during low water, the men wading into the river, and prying the blocks of coal out with crow bars. It was used for all purposes, even in the manufacture of axes. A quantity of coal was taken from the banks of the Bow River near the Blackfoot Crossing at the time of the treaty there, and a party of miners who travelled along the Bow River many years ago say they saw in one place a seam of solid coal eight feet thick. On the Red Deer River a seam some distance above Tail Creek is said to be on fire. On the Pembina River, ninety miles west of Edmonton, near where the trail to the Jasper House crosses it, a large seam of excellent coal exists, which is also on fire. On the Smoky River, a tributary of the Peace River, coal beds are also on fire, and in the banks of the Peace River itself large seams of coal have been observed, but how much further north the coal deposits extend is not known. On the Saskatchewan above Edmonton

seams of great thickness are known to exist, but they have never been carefully examined.

At Edmonton two main seams and a number of smaller ones are noticed in the cut banks of the river. The upper seam is about 60 feet above the water and 140 below the surface of the ground, and varies from two and a half to three and a half feet in thickness. It is divided in two parts by a break or "gouge" of clay from an inch to a foot thick. The part of the seam above the gouge is the best. The coal is a bright black, and part of it is quite glassy looking. No dust comes from it as from ordinary coal. It is very brittle, and does not stand exposure to the weather. It burns readily either in stoves or grates, giving a good heat, and leaving no residue but ashes. It is not suitable for blacksmithing as it coats the iron with dirt to such an extent as to prevent it from welding. Most of the coal mined during the past winter was taken from the upper seam.

The lower seam is about twenty inches thick and is perfectly solid. The coal is close grained and of a shining black color, having the appearance of pitch. It can be taken out in large blocks, and stands exposure better than the coal of the upper seam, but when burnt it leaves a hard glassy clinker, which is very inconvenient, especially in base burner stoves.

The seam at Big Island differs from both seams here in appearance, and is said to be of better quality. It is in use in the Fort blacksmith shop.

Immediately above and below are layers of a black slaty substance, which form a sort of casing to the coal. Above the upper layer is a thick bed of hard grayish clay, in which, a few inches above the coal, is a layer of soft yellow clay, an inch or two thick, called glomén, which feels, and acts on the hands, like soap. Above this again, but still in the gray clay, is a layer of iron stone boulders. In some parts of the seam traces of sulphur are found.

Four main tunnels or drifts have been run this winter in the upper seam, on the south side of the river, to a distance of 80, 150, 150 and 100 feet respectively, out of which five hundred tons of coal have been taken. The main tunnels are five feet wide and five feet high. The roof is supported by sets of timbers consisting of two posts and a cross piece or cap, and are four feet apart. Narrow strips, called lagging, are driven in close together above the caps, to keep the loose dirt and stones from falling down. After the tunnel has been run in to where the coal is solid and good, it is widened out as much as the character of the roof will admit. Workings called breasts are carried on either side of the main tunnel, from twenty to thirty feet wide, the roof being supported by four-foot posts and T caps, but none of the drifts are so far in as to be in danger from fire damp, the report of an explosion, in our last issue, being incorrect. The output is from one to two tons a day per man. Water coming in causes some trouble and expense in the way of drainage.

It appears likely that Edmonton is near the eastern boundary of the coal deposits, and that further up the river, nearer their center, the coal is

## LOCAL.

SPRING !

SNOW gone.

WEATHER fine.

ROADS muddy.

TREES budding.

CREEKS lowering.

CATTLE feeding out.

HAY enough, but scarce.

MAIL a week behind time.

STOCK generally in fair condition.

GARDENING commenced on Saturday.

THE Police pay is over three months in arrears.

Ed. McPherson put his carts across the river on the ice on Saturday, ready to start for Winnipeg.

FLOUR, bacon, beef and groceries plentiful, which never was the case here before at this time of the year.

P. COULTS and Dan Williams, of Fort Saskatchewan, are going to spend the summer on the river washing gold.

ABOUT \$130, the amount required, has been subscribed to the Methodist church organ fund, of which \$119 has been paid.

HIGHEST temperature during the past week was 55 above zero on Monday, and lowest 25 above on Sunday and Wednesday.

MR. J. McDONALD, freighter, starts for Winnipeg to-morrow. He takes with him forty four packs of fur, for J. W. Fisher, as far as Ellice.

MORNING service in Cree and evening service in English was held in the Methodist church here on Sunday last, by the Rev. John McDougall.

NONE of the police whose time expires this summer will take on again, and Dr. Herchmer, Sgt. Steele, and sub-constable Schultz have applied for their discharges. So much for starvation pay.

MR. J. W. FISHER says that the \$9,000 worth of fur he bought from Norris & Logan was the finest lot he had seen in ten years. It included four hundred almost black beaver, seventy five large black bear of the finest bright lustre, a large number of extra dark martin, seventy extra dark fisher, and a lot of extra large lynx.

## BOW RIVER.

There has been little or no loss of stock this winter, and the cattle are as fat as in the fall.

Ploughing was being vigorously prosecuted at Morleyville on March 21st.

The Stony Indians at Morleyville have erected forty first class spruce log houses. They have also ploughed over 100 acres of ground, all of which will be put under crop this summer. They are whip sawing lumber, and have it for sale. They also raise potatoes and cereals enough to almost support themselves, and one of them had some for sale. All this has been accomplished by Indians who never had a tool in hand until less than two years ago.

The Government deals out a daily ration of two pounds of beef to each Indian, twelve head of cattle being slaughtered weekly to supply it.

The large new stock ranches are the general subject of conversation. The feeling is that they will be injurious to the small stock raisers and settlers by crowding them out.

The past winter has been exceedingly mild since New Year's. December was cold, the thermometer going to 40 below zero. There was very little snow in this vicinity, but north of the Red Deer River, and south in Montana, it has been much deeper than usual.

A MISSIONARY MEETING will be held on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock, in the Methodist Mission Church here.

EDMONTON HOTEL & Feed Stables. Established 1876. The pioneer house of accommodation this side of Portage la Prairie. A very social evening can be spent in the Billiard Room. D. ROSS.

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